

said that in districts where such vegetation prevails the stock may be despatched to distant markets with a probability of arriving in good condition. If the cattle subsisted exclusively on grass, it might be possible to form some opinion in regard to the comparative value of our Australian genera for grazing purposes; but when we take into consideration the fact that the cattle feed not only on grass, but also on many other plants (particularly of the *Salsolaceæ*, *Amarantaceæ*, *Geraniaceæ*, and *Umbelliferæ*), it seems difficult to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion. There can be no doubt that some grasses are more fattening than others, but until a careful analysis has been made it appears somewhat premature to declare, excepting in general terms, what genera are best adapted for the purposes indicated. Particular species have been long known for their nutritive principles, but when we come to speak of genera, little can be said for certain.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF EURYSTOPODUS.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c.

EURYSTOPODUS NIGRIPENNIS, *n. sp.*

Head with light ashy vermiculations and freckles; the feathers of the forehead, crown, and occiput with a black shaft line very broad on the crown of the head; chin, loreal region, and narrow band round the hind neck black, strongly tinged with rufous-chestnut; a narrow oblique patch of white on either side of the throat, but not joined on the chin, chest blackish brown, the tips of the feathers marbled with ashy, forming two roundish spots one on either side of the tips of the feathers, or confluent and forming irregular broken bands right across, sides of the body barred with a lighter ashy tint in the same way, the interspaces between the ashy bands, black; flanks, abdomen and under tail coverts strongly washed with rufous-chestnut and barred with

narrow black bands; under wing coverts black, barred with rufous-chestnut, and interscapular region blackish brownish, marbled with ashy and black, those adjacent to the scapulars and coverts having a broad black stripe along the outer web of the feathers, shoulders black sparingly dotted with chestnut, the upper wing coverts black with ocelli of ashy and spots of chestnut, the larger series with indistinct bars on the inner webs and roundish deep chestnut spots on the outer; the inner secondaries very closely freckled, marbled, and vermiculated with ashy, which almost obliterates the chestnut spots and bars; the smaller scapulars are very closely vermiculated and marked with ashy; some having the ends of the feathers black, spotted with chestnut and distinctly margined on the outer webs with ashy, which when the feathers are adjusted form a defined band down the scapulars. The inner three secondary quills are brown much freckled with ashy and showing only remains of blackish bars of interscapulars. The remaining secondaries blackish-brown barred with rufous chestnut on the inner webs, the bars not reaching the shaft, the outer webs have remains of 7—8 bars or round well defined spots of a richer or darker rufous-chestnut, the outer webs of these feathers more inclining to black as they approach the primaries. The primaries black, the inner ones from the fifth quill inclusive, barred and spotted like the secondaries, the spots and bars become fewer and less distinct until they disappear altogether on the fourth quill; the first primary has an indication of a white spot on the margin of the inner web, which spot increases in size on the second, third and fourth quills, on which last (fourth) it forms a large white blotch and extends across both webs; on the outer web of the third is a small white marginal spot. The centre two tail feathers and outer webs only of the others and the upper tail coverts blackish with ashy marblings and freckles forming more or less distinct bands, the tips of all the tail feathers ashy, the inner webs of all the rest of the feathers with at least ten chestnut bars well

defined except towards the tips where the ninth and tenth bars are somewhat broken and irregular. Tarsus feathered to the toes, bill black, feet brown. Length about 11 in.; wing 9 in.; tail 6; tarsus 0·7; mid toe 0·88, its nail 0·3; hind toe 0·35; bill from forehead 0·9, from gape to lip in a direct line 1·5 in. from nostril to the tip 0·35.

This species approaches nearest to *Eurystopodus albogularis* but is smaller, being about the size of *E. guttatus*, but different in the wing spots.

This specimen was obtained by Lieut. J. C. Farrie of H.M.S. Miranda, on one of the Solomon Islands.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Note on Insects injurious to Gum Trees, by William Macleay, F.L.S.—I now exhibit two coloured drawings—one natural size, the other considerably magnified—of a caterpillar said to be very destructive to the *Eucalyptus tereticornis* in Gippsland. The drawings were sent to me a few days ago by Baron Mueller, who had received them from Mr. A. W. Howitt, the resident Magistrate, North Gippsland. In the absence of a specimen or even of any description, of the perfect insect, it is absolutely impossible to determine the species of Moth to which the larva belongs; but it apparently is of the genus *Orgyia*, Family Arctiidae and Division Pseudo-Bombyces. In the genus *Orgyia* and its allies, the female is generally apterous, the abdomen swelling out into a huge mass of ova covered with the woolly clothing of the moth. I have never before heard of the numbers of any of this group of moths being so great in any locality as to injure trees. My object in now introducing this subject to the Society, is in the hope of drawing the attention of members to it, so that the summer may not be allowed to terminate without an attempt to solve the problem of the cause of the rapid destruction of our